



Transmission Lines, Greater Sage-Grouse, Ravens, and Raptors in Southwestern Idaho



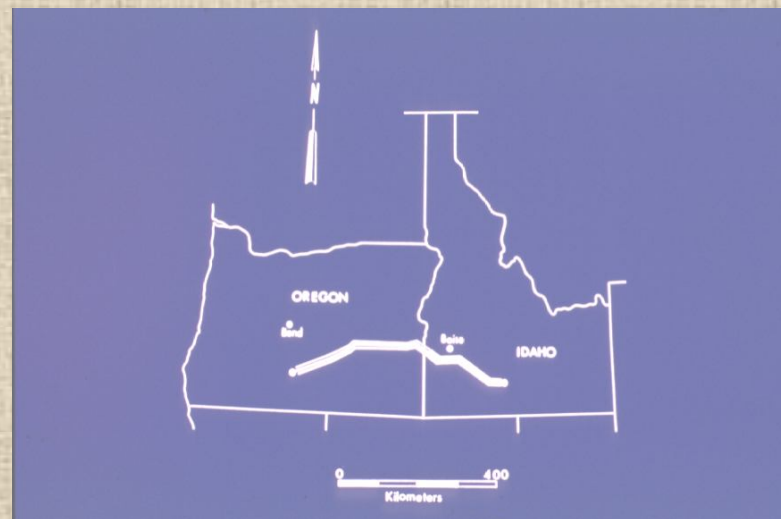
OBJECTIVES

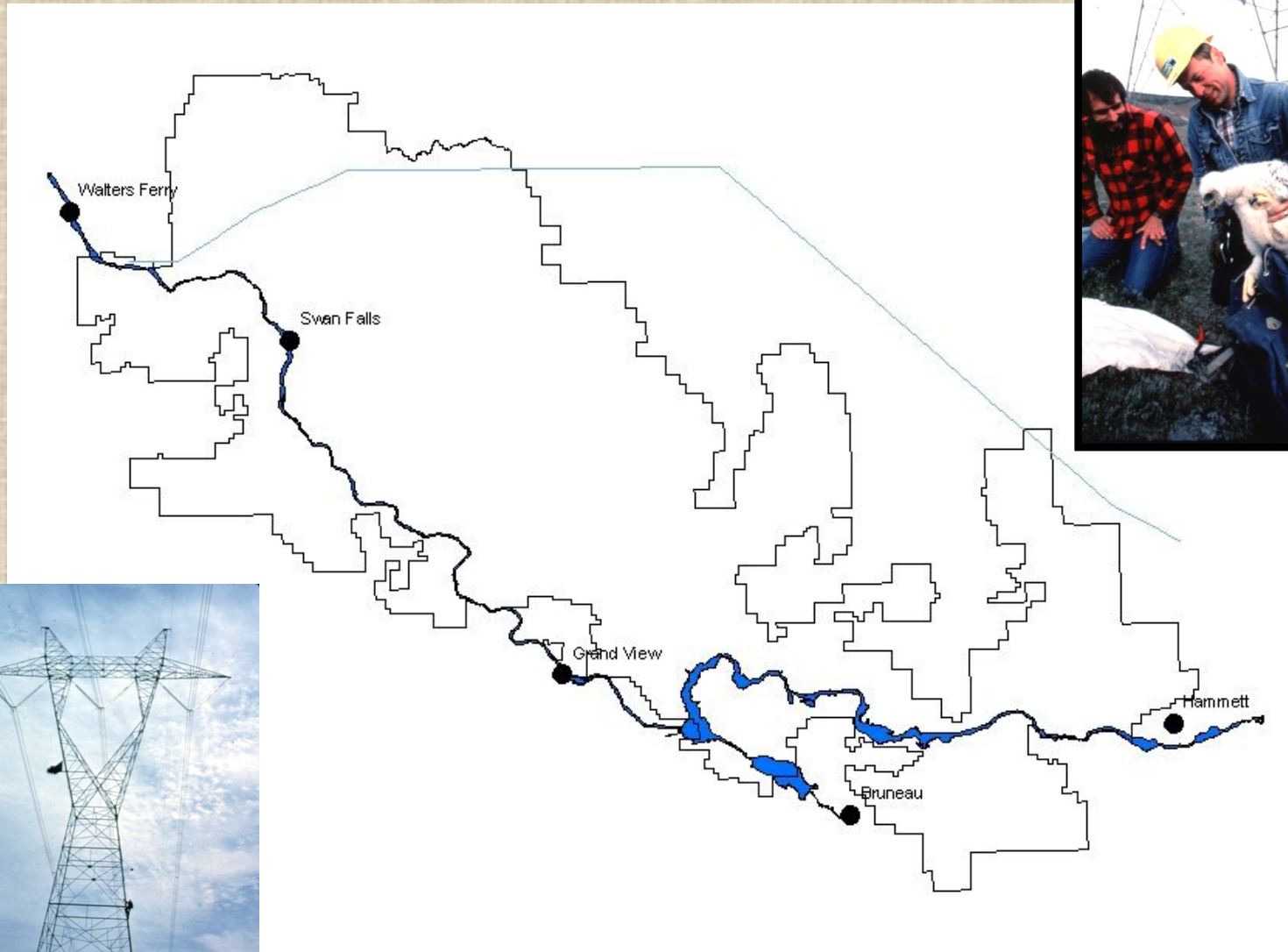
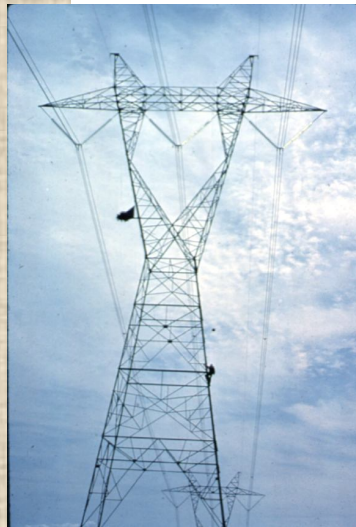
- **Review information on the response of raptors and ravens to new transmission lines**
- **Discuss information on nest predation of greater-sage grouse by ravens**
- **Predict the effects of proposed transmission lines in southwestern Idaho on raptors, ravens, and sage-grouse**



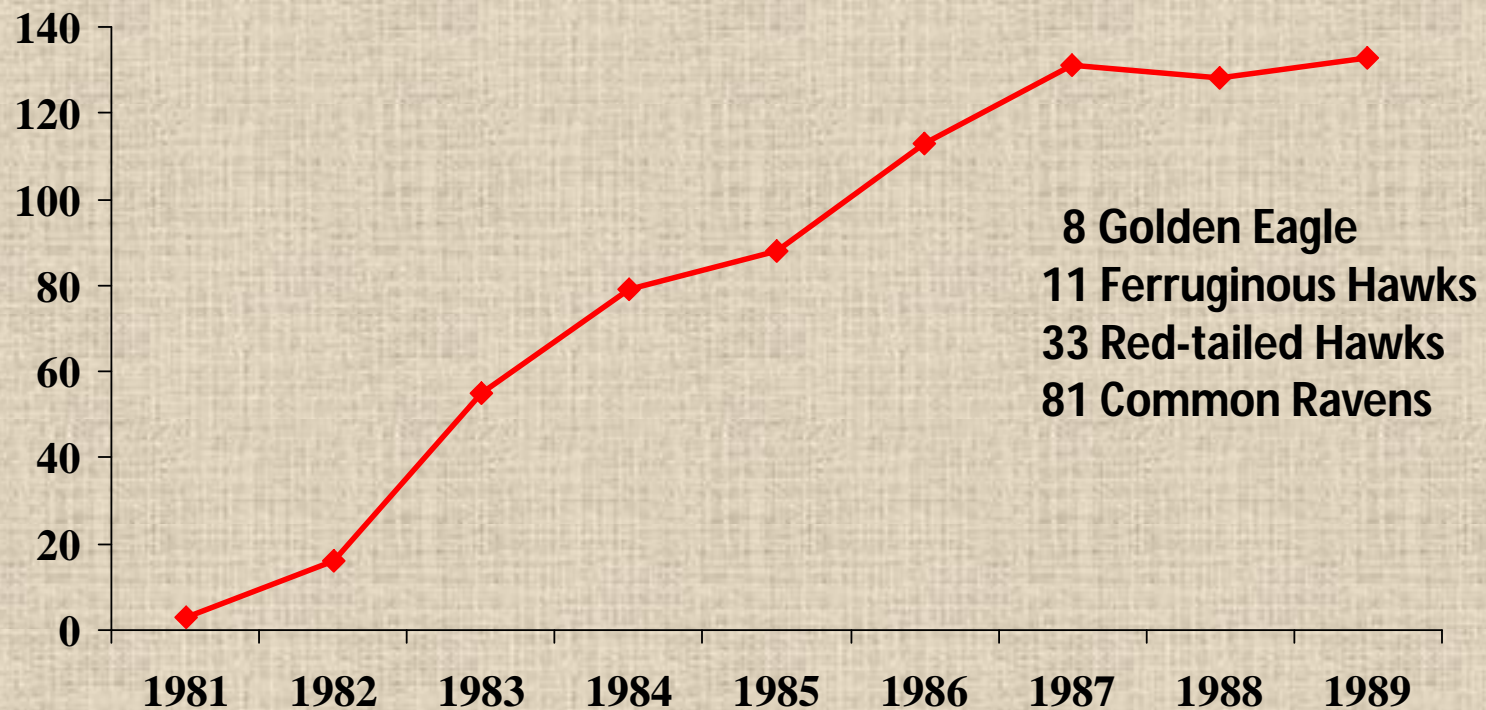
Snake River Birds of Prey

NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

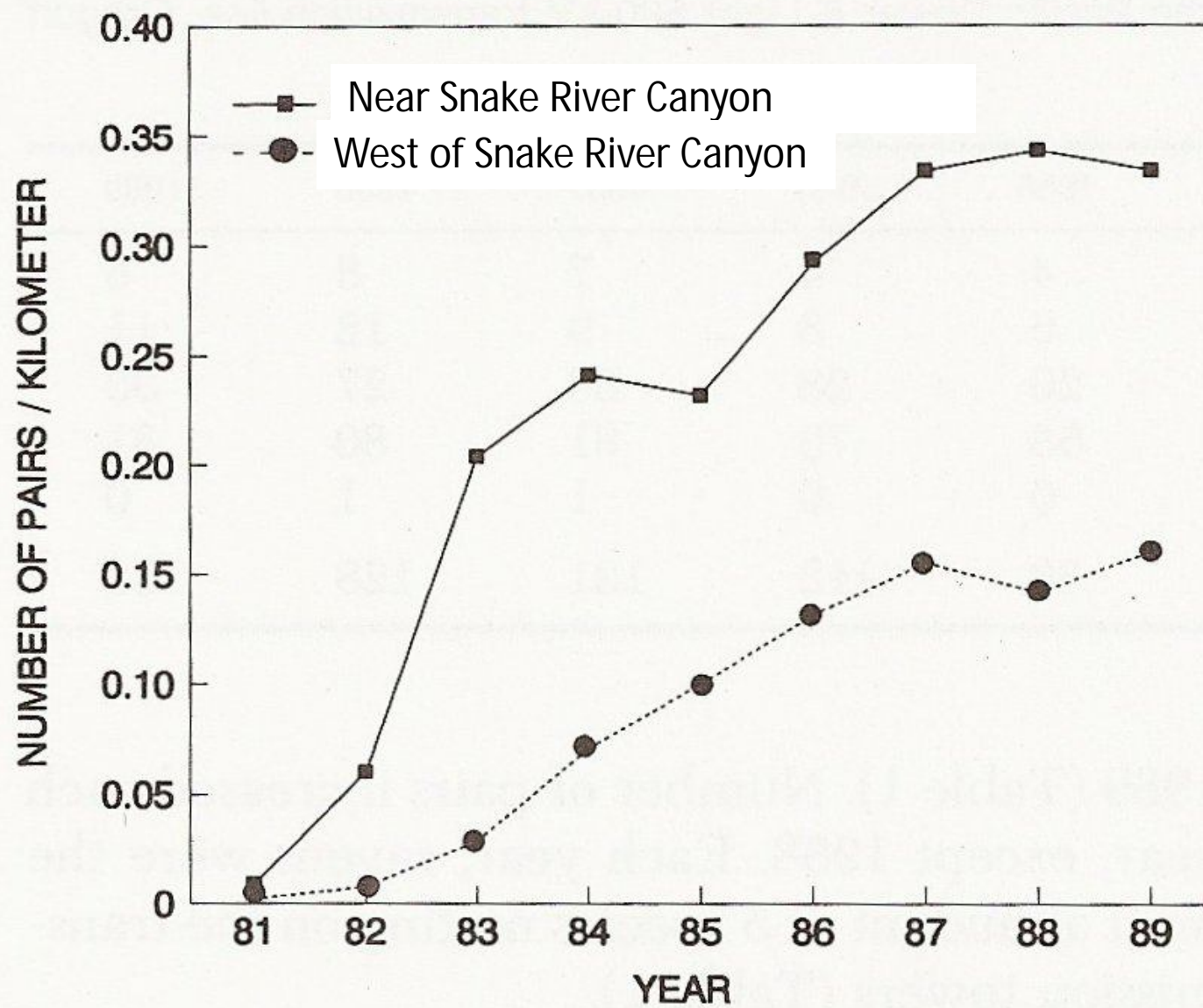


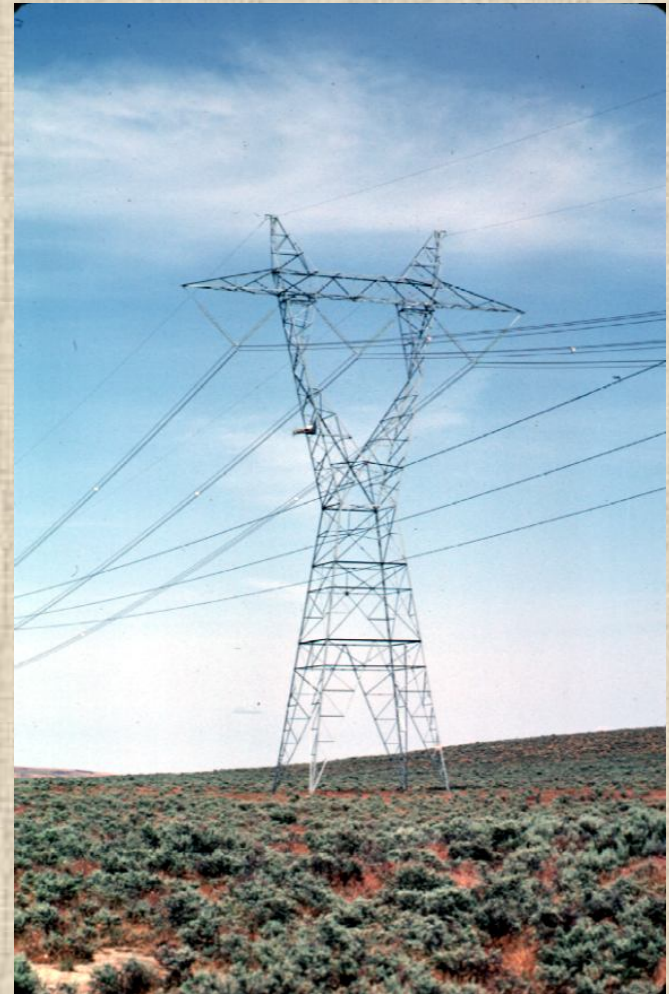


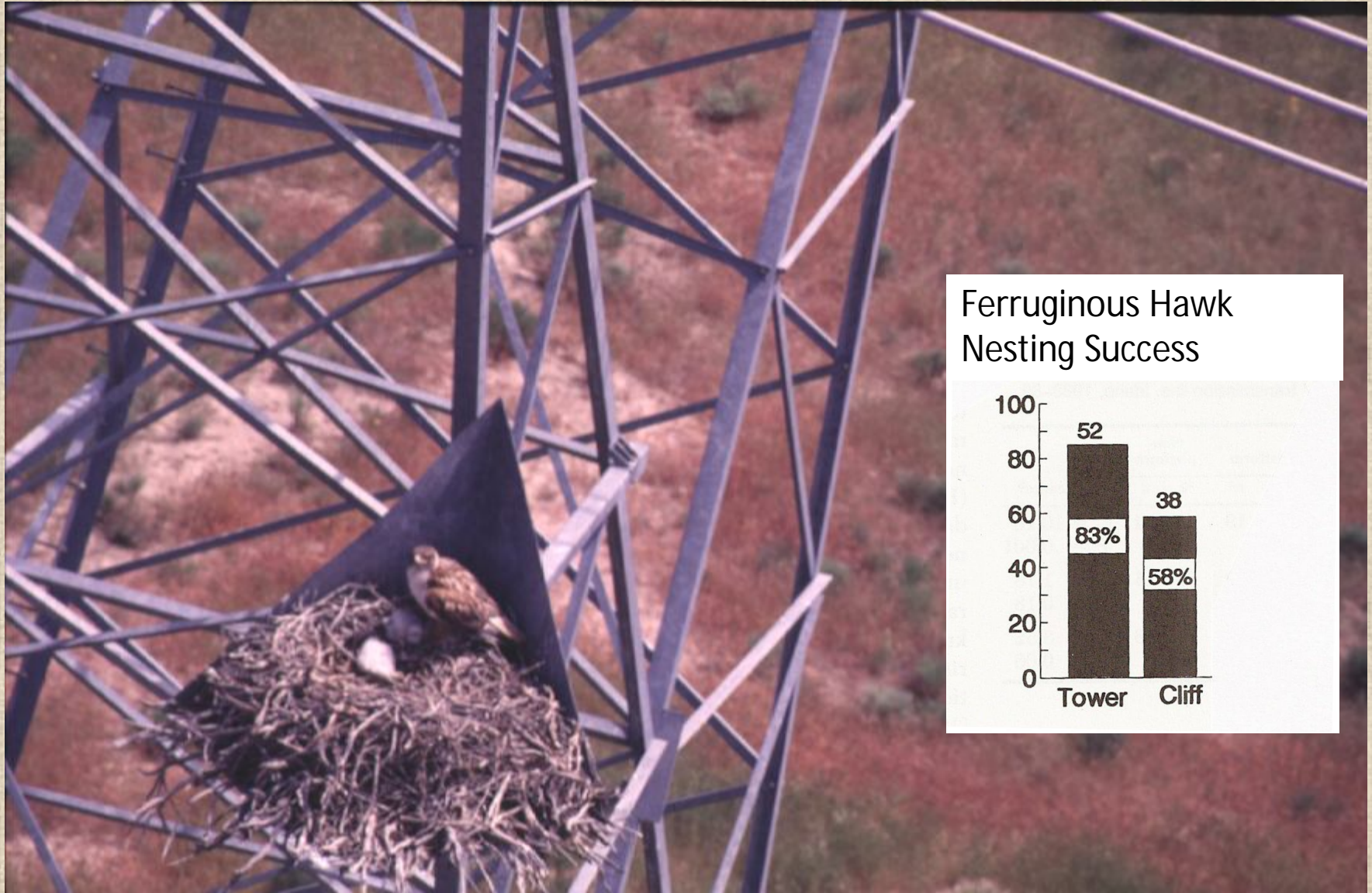
Number of Raptors and Raven Pairs Nesting on the PP&L 500-kV line



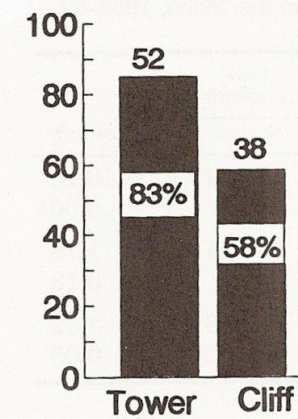
Steenhof, K., M.N. Kochert and J.A. Roppe. 1993. Nesting by raptors and common ravens on electrical transmission line towers. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 57: 271-281.

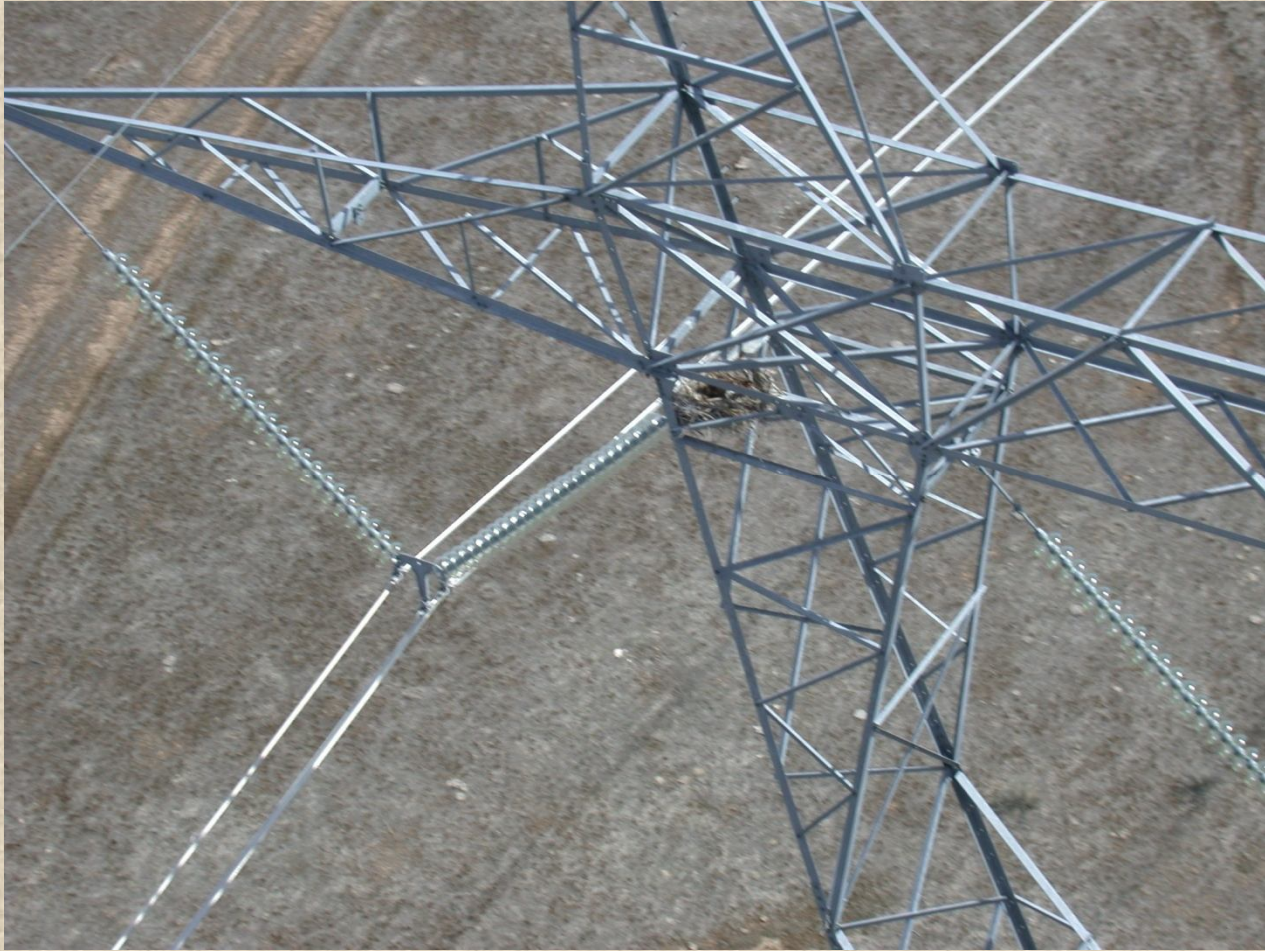






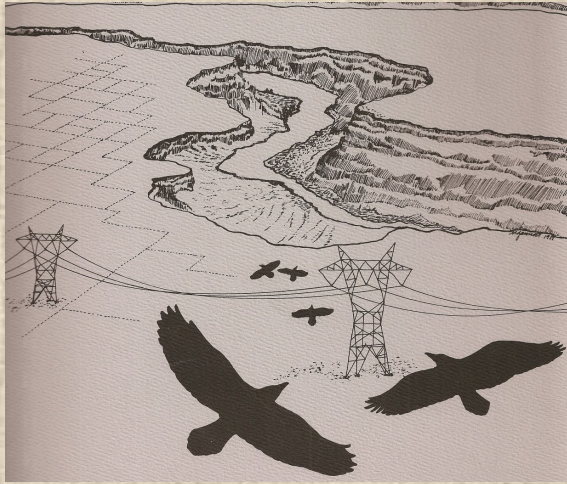
Ferruginous Hawk Nesting Success







Engel, K.A., L.S. Young, K. Steenhof, J.A. Roppe and M.N. Kochert. 1992. Communal roosting of common ravens in southwestern Idaho. *Wilson Bulletin* 104: 105-121.



Daily Movements of Common Ravens

Maximum Distance from Roost

Mean = 7 km

Maximum = 65 km

Engel, K.A. and L.S. Young. 1992. Movements and habitat use by common ravens from roost sites in southwestern Idaho. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 56: 596-602.

IMPLICATIONS?



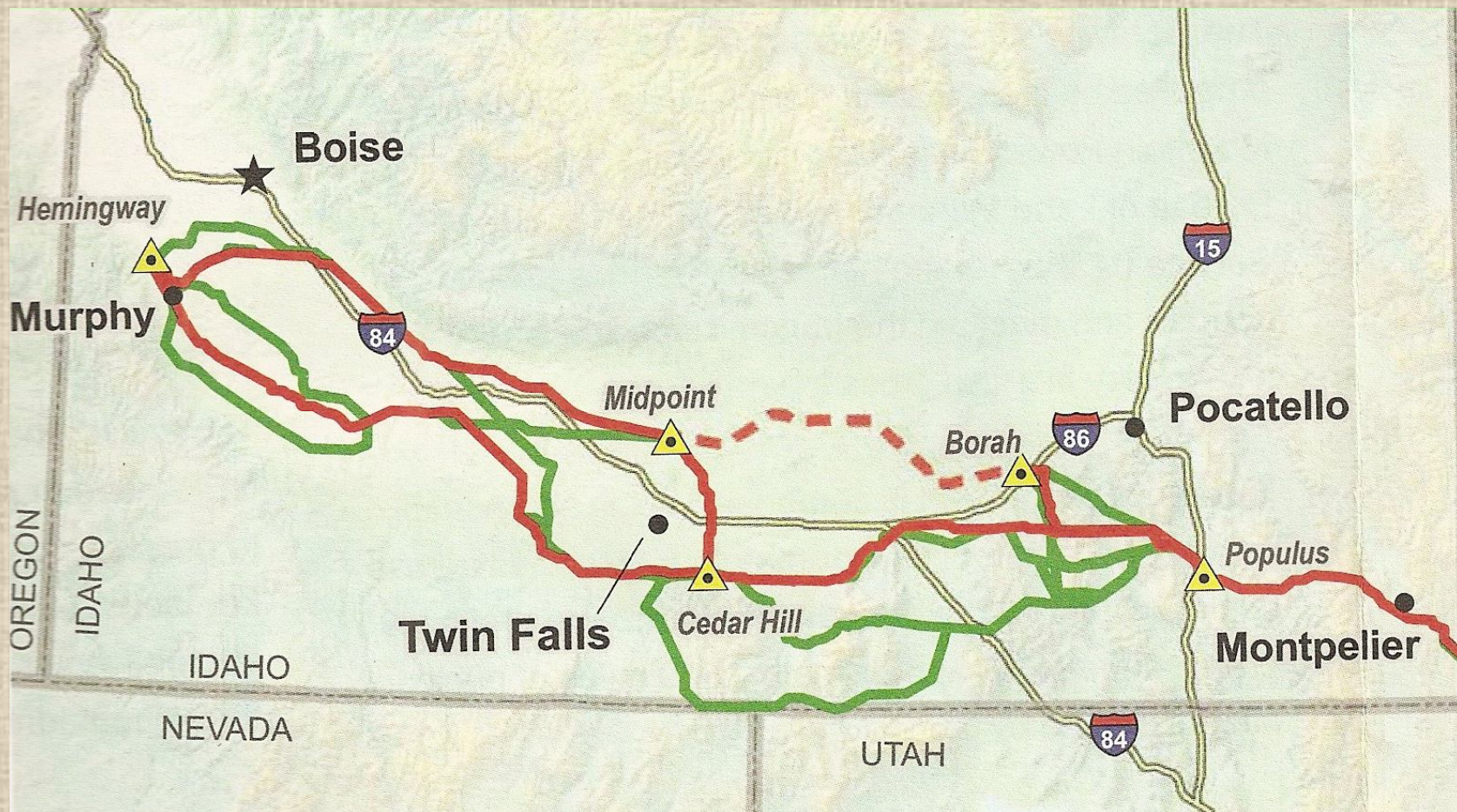




- Nest failure is an important factor in sage-grouse declines
- Nest predation is the primary cause of nest failure
- Ravens are the most common nest predator in NE Nevada

Peter S. Coates, John W. Connelly, and David J. Delehanty. 2008.
Predators of Greater Sage-Grouse nests identified by video monitoring.
J. Field Ornithol. 79(4):421–428

GATEWAY WEST Transmission Line Project



Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area



Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision

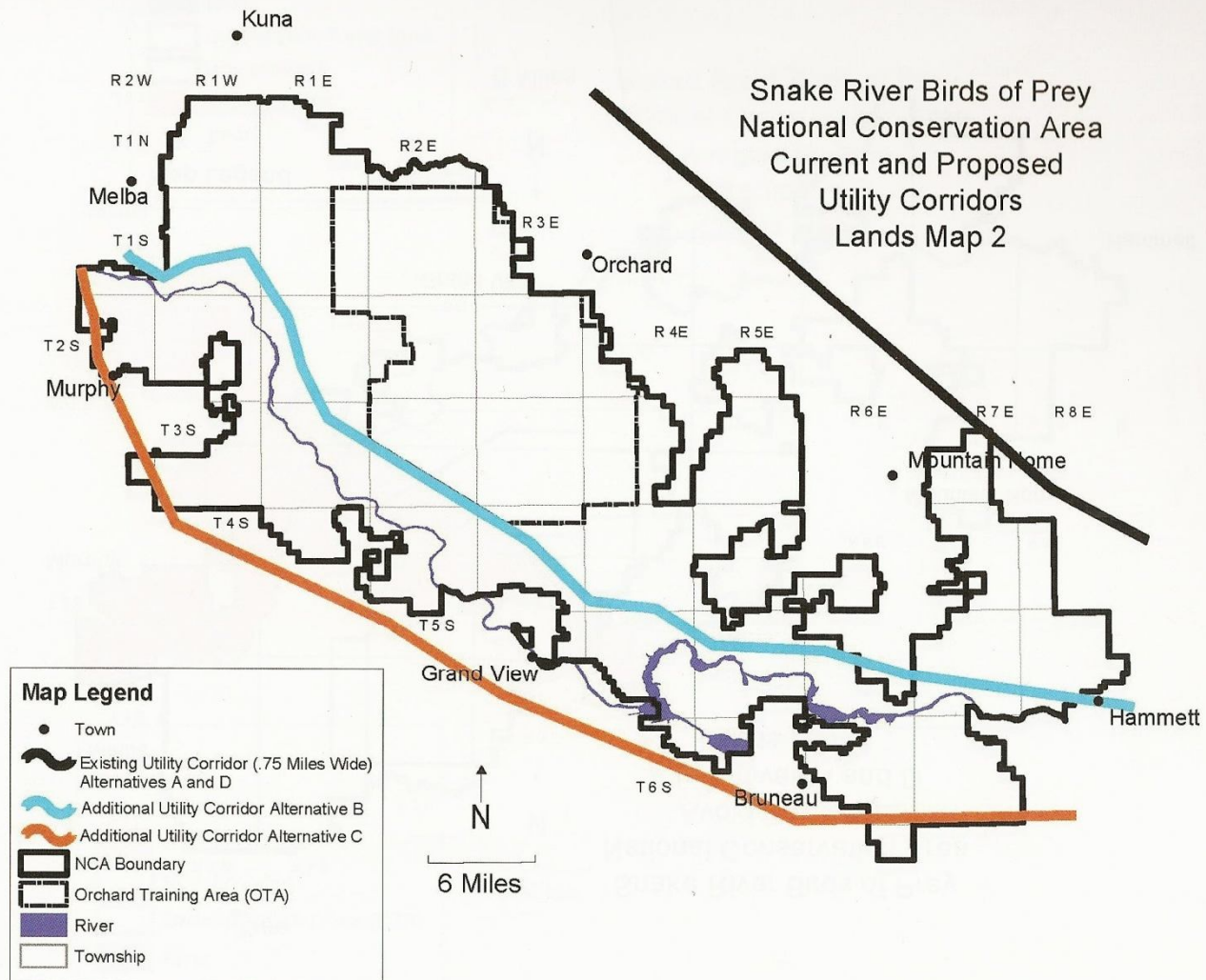
September 2008



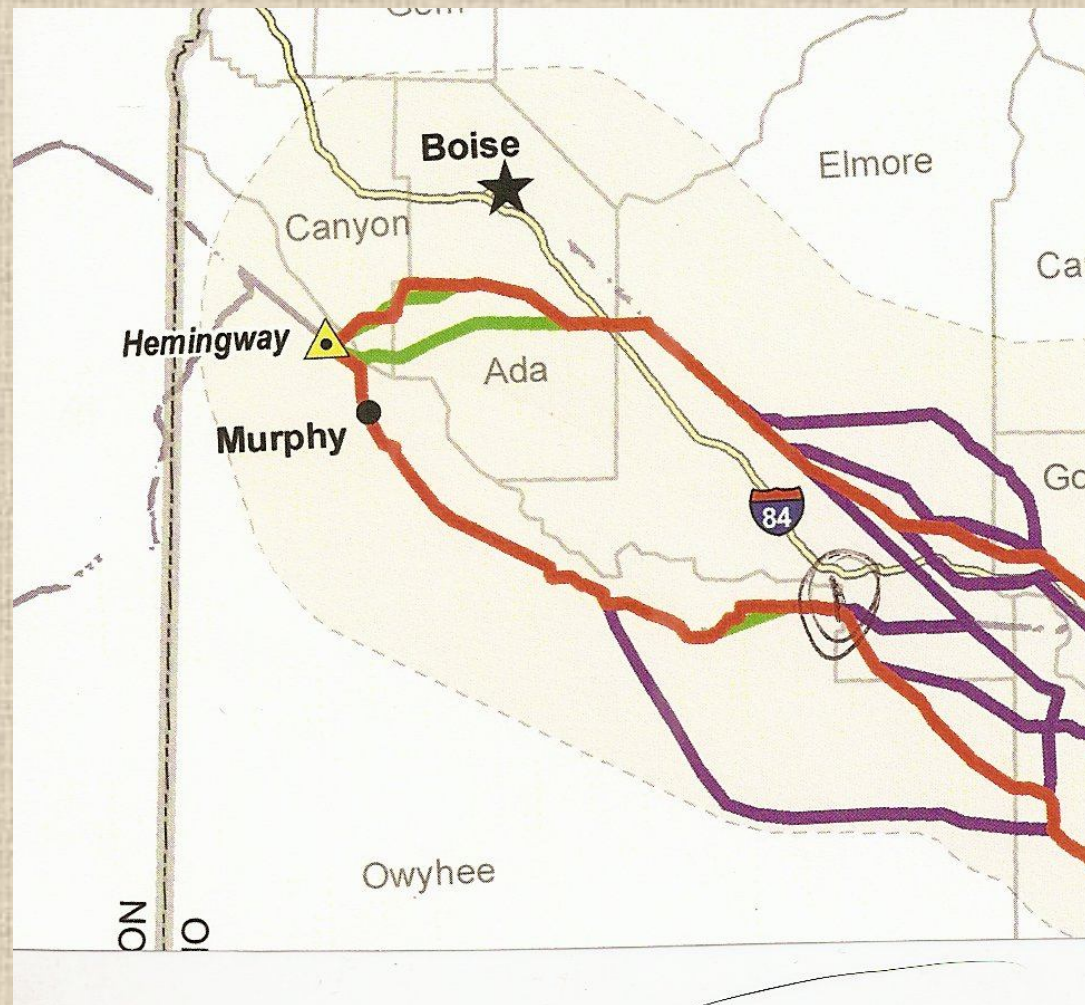
Boise District Office / Idaho

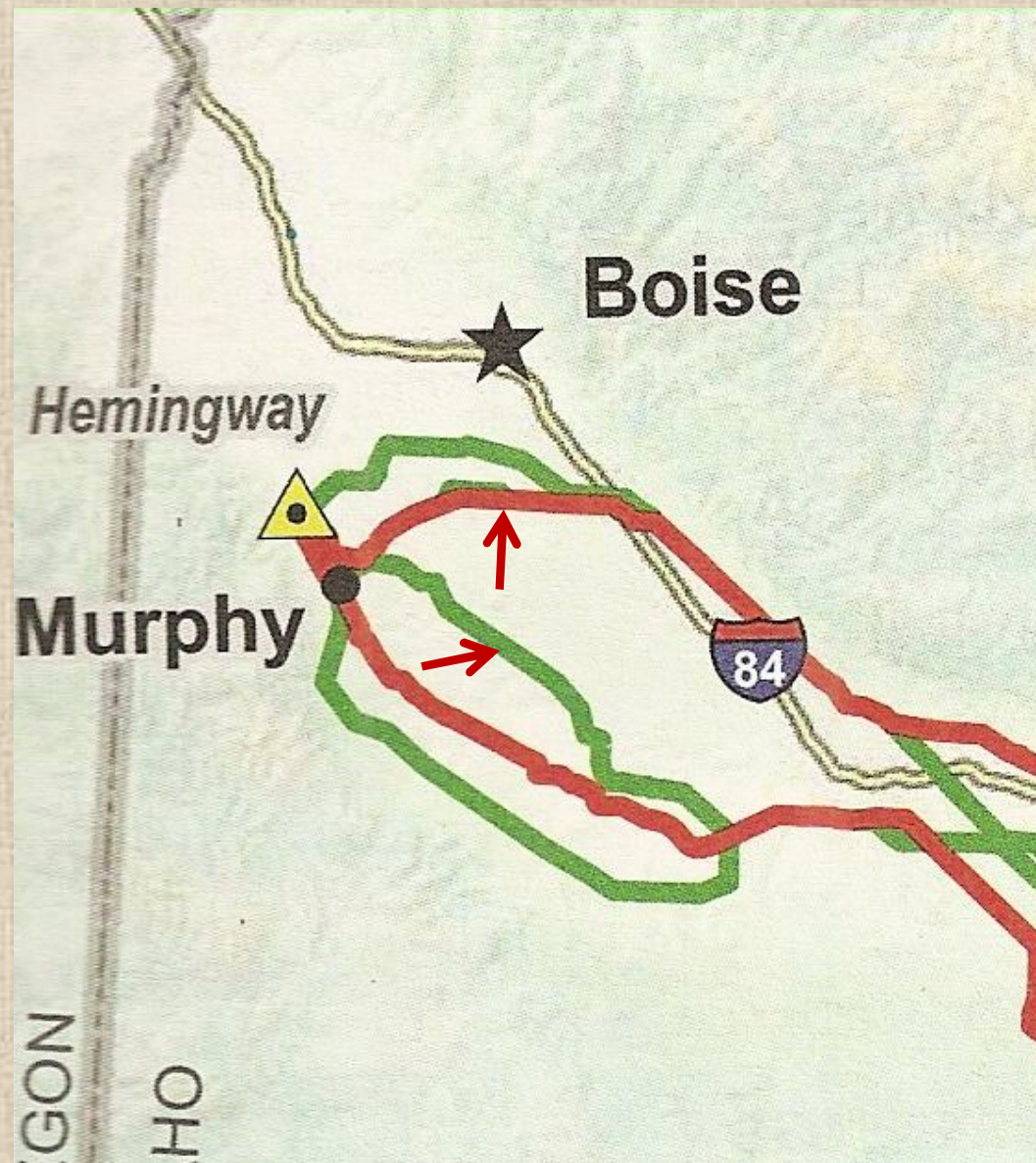
BLM

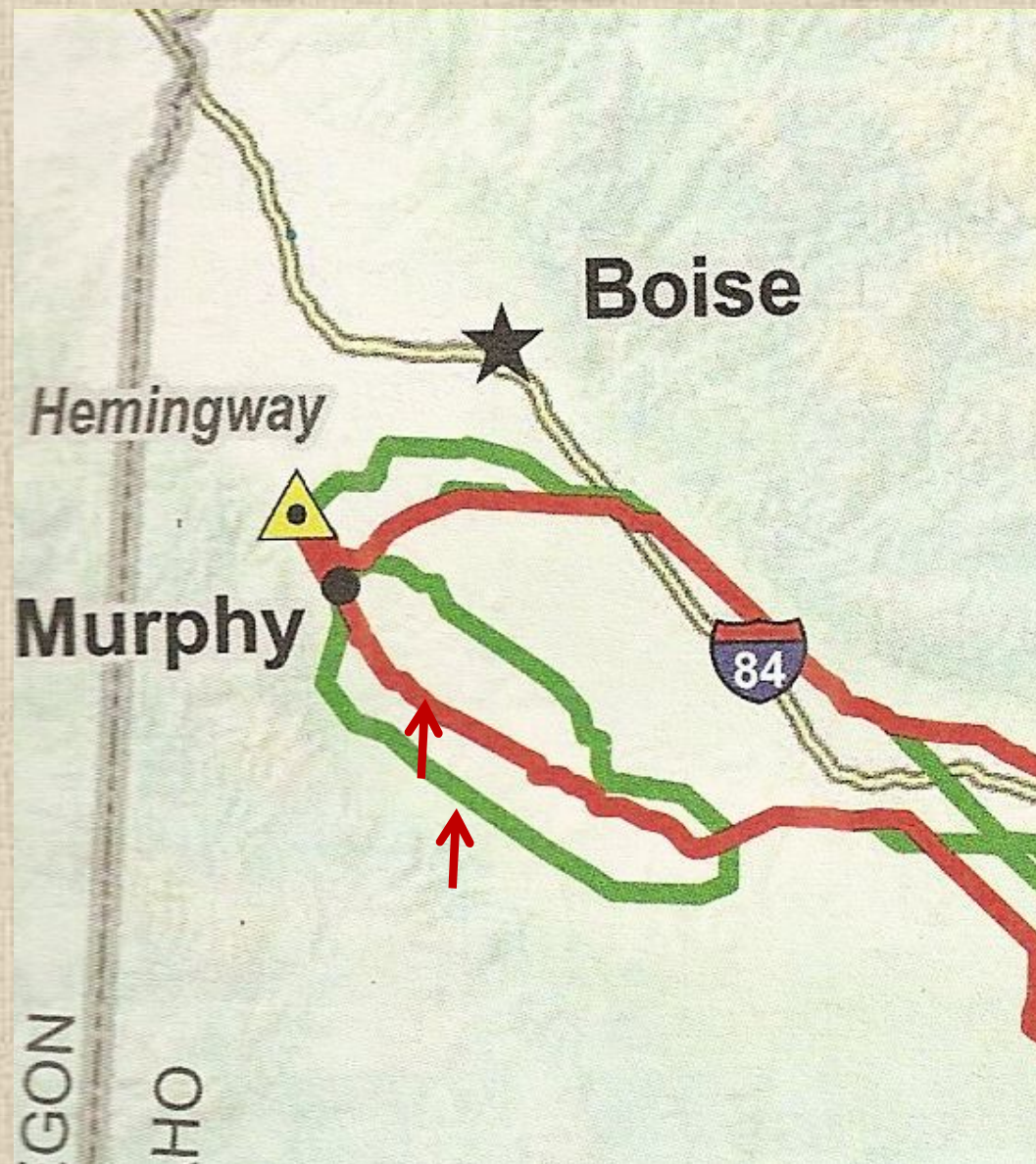
Snake River Birds of Prey
National Conservation Area
Current and Proposed
Utility Corridors
Lands Map 2

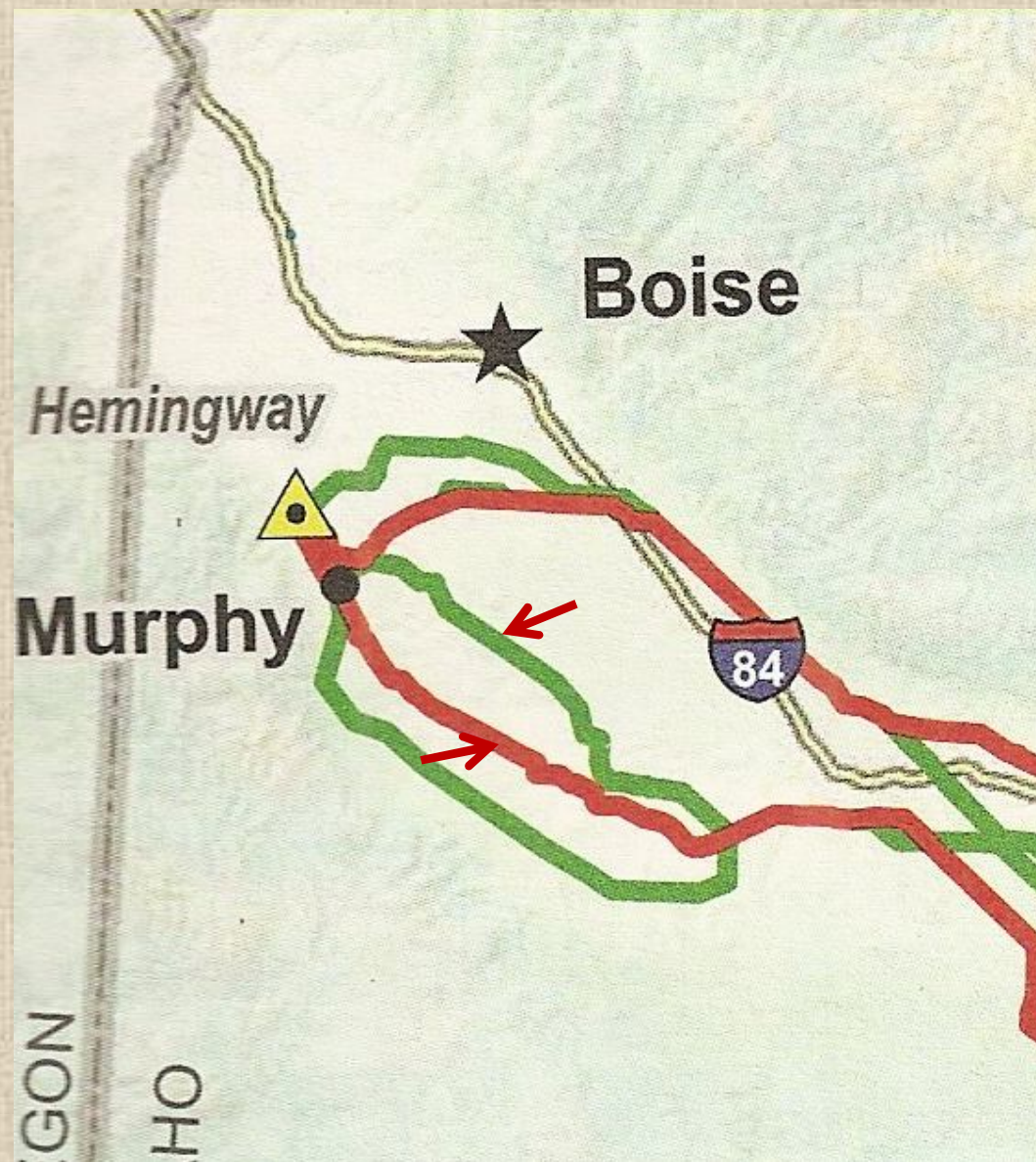


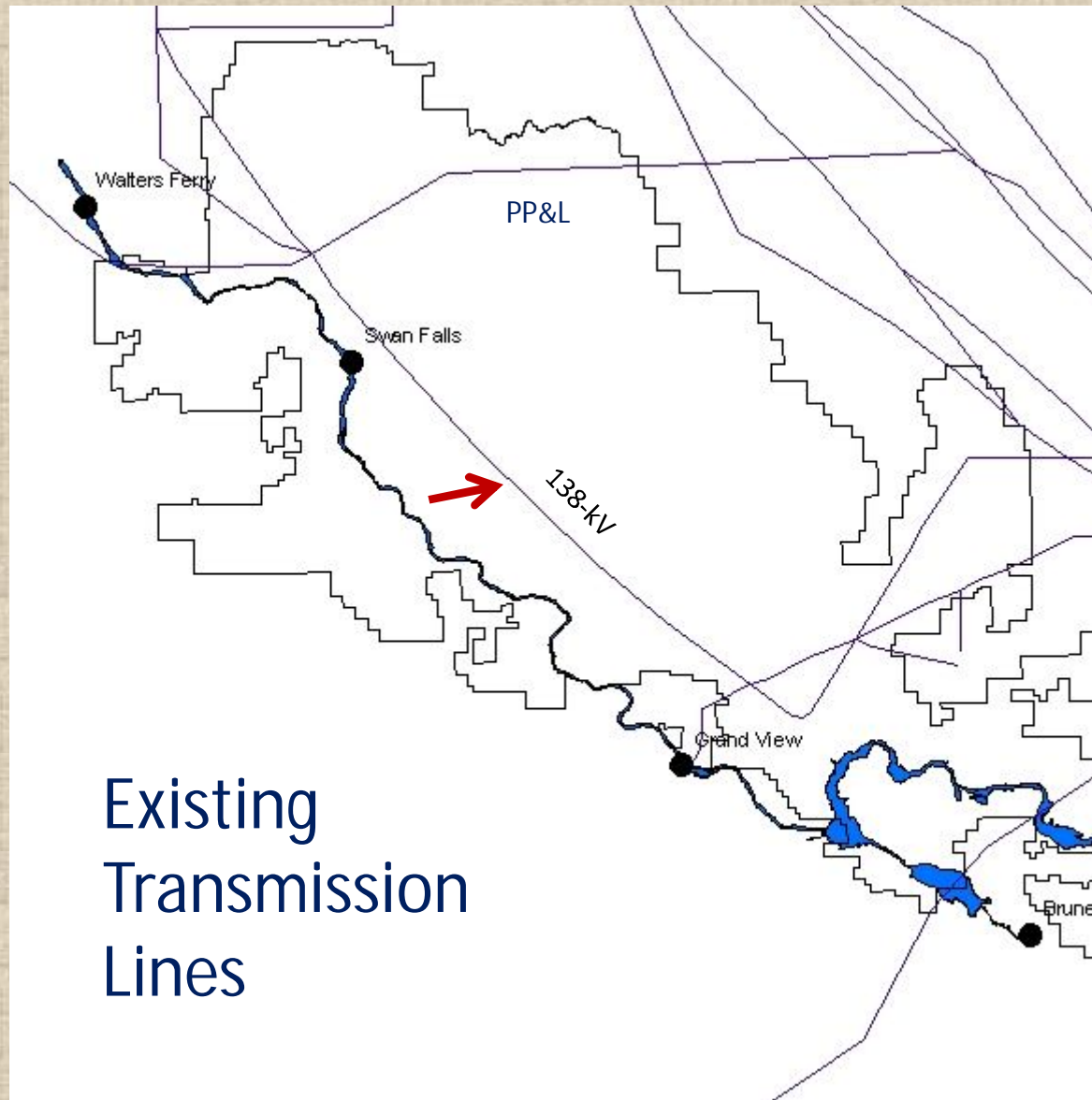
GATEWAY WEST Transmission Line Project









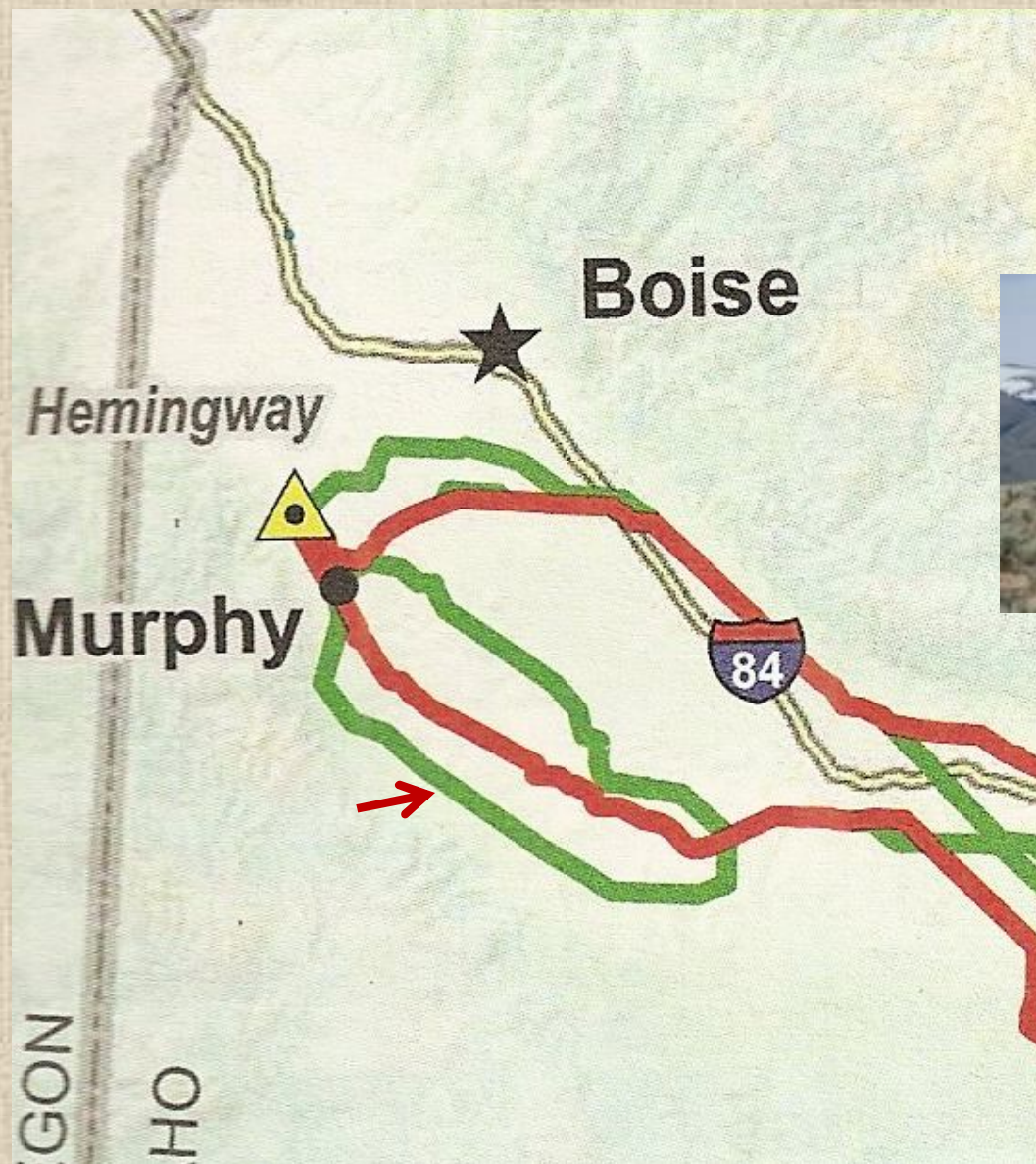


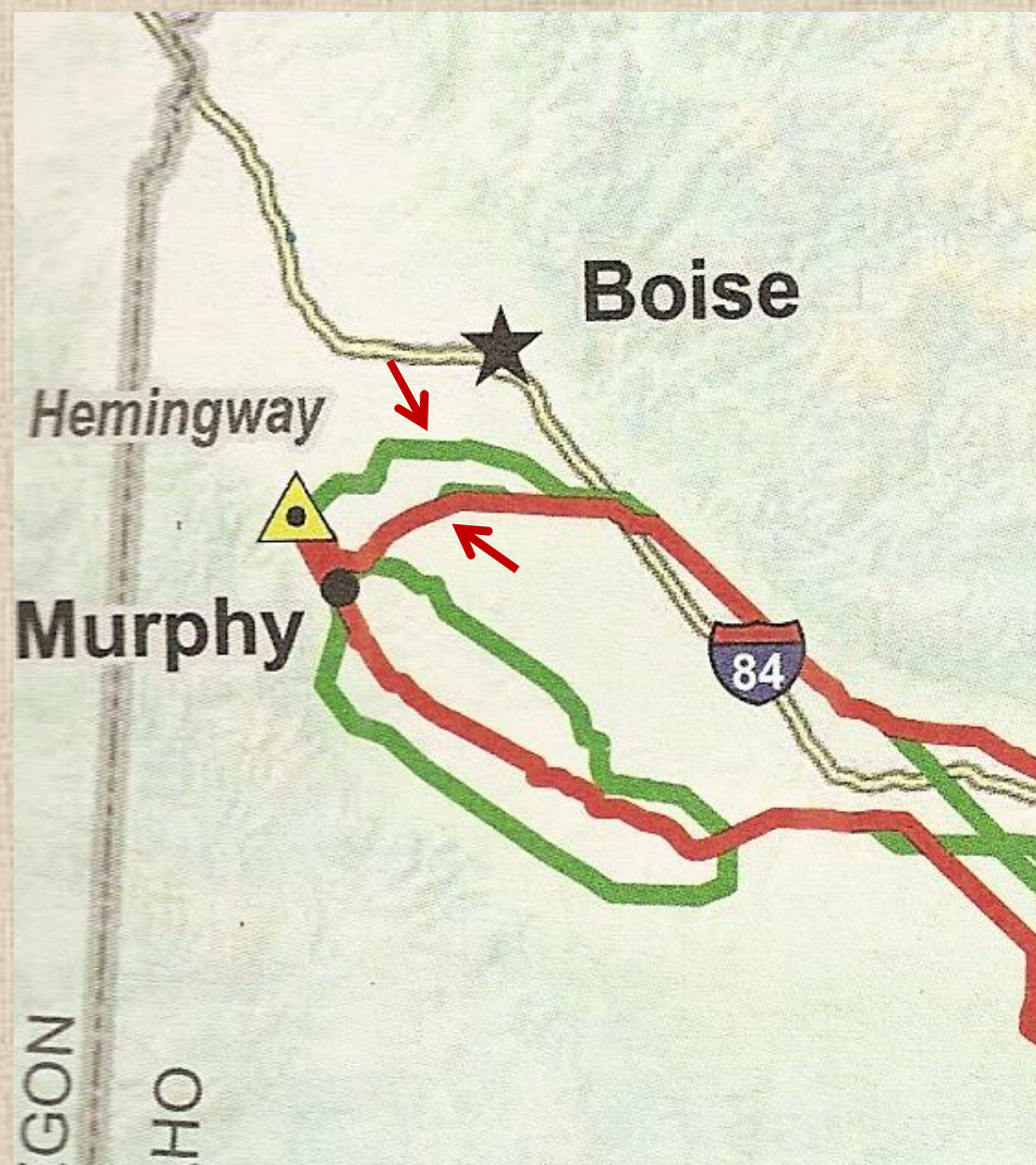
Existing
Transmission
Lines





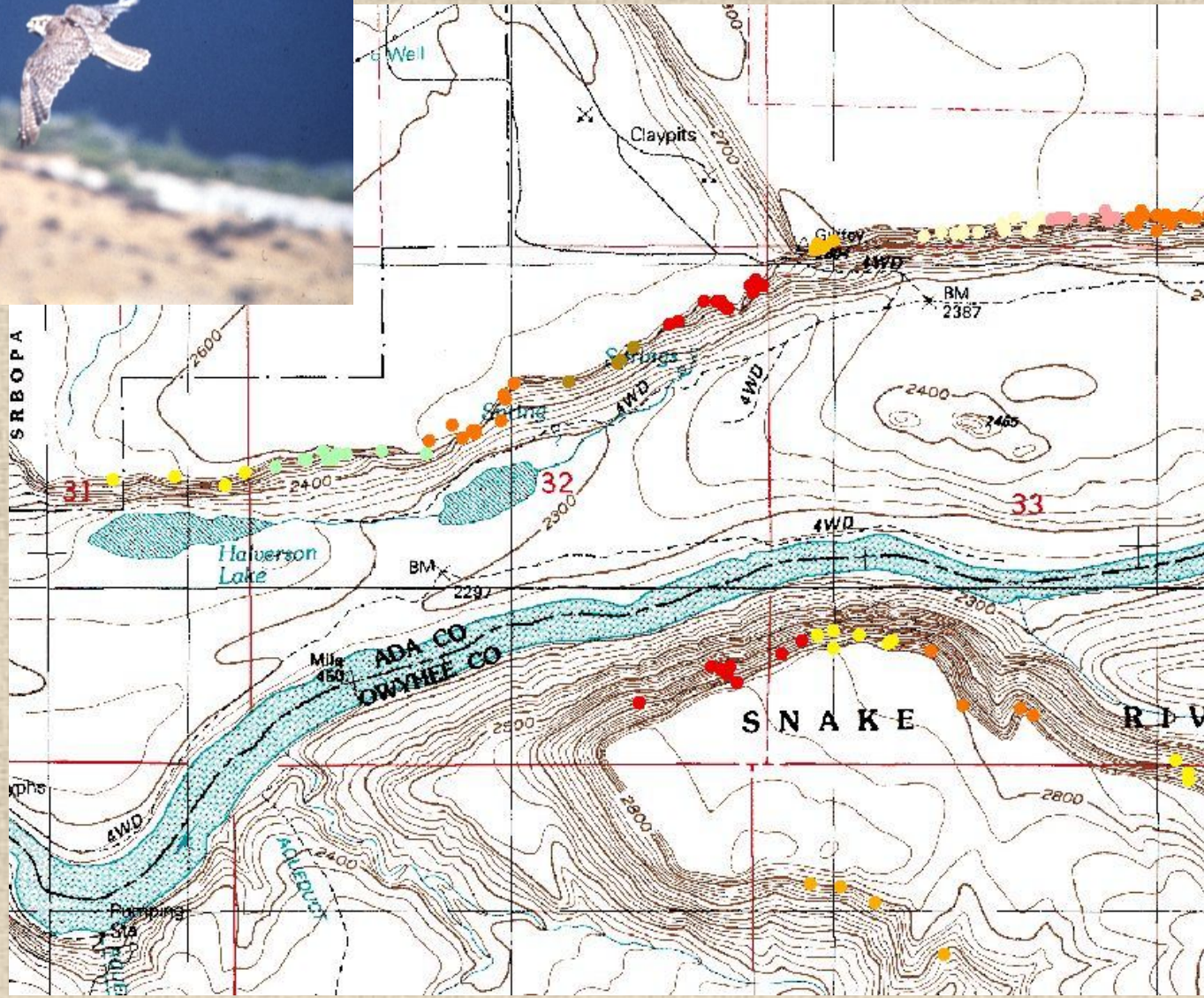












SUMMARY



- Raptors and ravens will be attracted to new transmission lines.
- Colonization will occur mainly near existing breeding populations.
- Buffers around leks and brood-rearing areas need to be large to protect grouse from avian predation.
- Transmission lines can be compatible with raptors.



SITE-SPECIFIC CONCLUSIONS

- One of two routes proposed in the NCA would be compatible with raptors and NCA goals
- It would avert an alternative that would have adverse effects on Greater Sage-Grouse.
- The other route has issues and conflicts that need to be resolved.

